

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 and 4 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus in which a pixel area, including a plurality of pixels each having a photoelectric conversion portion and a common output portion configured to sequentially amplify and output signals from the plurality of pixels included in the pixel area, is formed on a single semiconductor substrate, said apparatus comprising:

a power supply unit configured to effect power supply control of the common output portion independently of control of the power supply to the pixel area; and

a control circuit configured to effect control to supply no power to the common output portion in a predetermined period after starting photo-charge accumulation in the photoelectric conversion portion and to supply power to the common output portion before the end of a photo-charge accumulation period in the photoelectric conversion portion,

wherein said control circuit is arranged to continue to supply the power to the common output portion throughout the photo-charge accumulation period if the photo-charge accumulation period of the photoelectric conversion portion is shorter than a predetermined accumulation time.

2. (Previously Presented) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control circuit variably controls the period during which no power is supplied to the common output portion.

3. (Previously Presented) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said power supply unit is formed on the single semiconductor substrate.

4. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus in which a pixel area, including an arrangement of a plurality of pixels each having a photoelectric conversion portion and a common output portion configured to sequentially amplify and output signals from the plurality of pixels included in the pixel area, is formed on a single semiconductor substrate, said apparatus comprising:

a power supply unit configured to supply a first power level and a second power level lower than the first power level to the common output portion; and

a control circuit configured to effect control to supply power of the second power level to the common output portion in a predetermined period after starting photo-charge accumulation in the photoelectric conversion portion and supply the first power level to the common output portion before the end of a photo-charge accumulation period in the photoelectric conversion portion,

wherein said control circuit is arranged to continue to supply the first power level to the common output portion throughout the photo-charge accumulation period if the photo-charge accumulation time of the photoelectric conversion portion is shorter than a predetermined accumulation time.

5. (Previously Presented) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said control circuit variably controls the period during which the second power level is supplied to the common output portion.

6. (Previously Presented) The image pickup apparatus according to claim 4 or 5, wherein said power supply unit is formed on the single semiconductor substrate.